

To: Renewable Advisory Board

From: Janice McClanaghan,  
Energy Office

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Subject: Update

The following is the January 2005, monthly update for the Renewable Energy Fund:

### **Supply Programs**

#### **Wind**

- 1) URI – URI is currently in discussions to select a performance contractor from among four ESCO bidders. Assuming the performance contractor approves the wind turbine project under terms acceptable to URI, the project does not require any approvals external to URI. URI has been offered assistance in evaluating the terms of a wind turbine proposal from a performance contractor from Fund consultants.
- 2) Portsmouth Abbey Wind – Outreach to immediate neighbors conducted on December 19, 2004, was successful, with no expressions of opposition. There appears to be no internal opposition, either, although final Board approval will not be sought until February. The Abbey must secure a building permit, which will feature a height variance, as well as FAA approval for the project. The Abbey would like to construct the turbine in 2005.
- 3) Roger Williams University – Dr. Pavlides will make a presentation at the January 11, 2005, Board meeting for additional support for his work guiding students and faculty from RWU and other institutions through various wind turbine siting activities in the state.

#### **Wave**

- 4) Energetech – Point Judith - Permitting –The developer is continuing to evaluate its approach to FERC permitting, with the MTC pushing for moving forward with permitting at the State level and continued pressure on FERC to cede jurisdiction to the State, given the small size and demonstration nature of the project. The subject of a Federal appropriation for the project for FY 2006 is being discussed among MTC, the Fund and the developer; there could be greater receptivity this year due to recognition by DOE of the need for a federal program for research and development in ocean energy technologies, as evidenced by the statements of DOE management as well as their appearance at ocean energy conferences in 2004.

#### **PV**

- 5) Solar on Schools – Entech Engineering has provided a separate update.
- 6) PV RFP – No new proposals were received on or by December 15, 2004, which was the final submittal date in a series of three for this current version of the RFP. A notice has been posted on the website that the program is being redesigned. There has been discussion at the Board level of changes to the program, including adjusting incentives, limiting incentives for larger systems and firming up program requirements that would result in funded systems having high visibility and outreach value. Also, Narragansett Electric has a data collection requirement by the Commission that could be addressed by requiring that funded systems

have an inexpensive watt-hour meter and regular readings reported to Narragansett or the Fund.

- 7) Low Income PV – During a monthly CESA phone call in December, several of the State funds expressed a need for developing low income PV programs. The MA Fund has made some inroads in this area, and the result of the phone call was a commitment by CESA to spend staff time to organize a discussion around this topic to provide funds with background info on program design.
- 8) Solaris/Slater Center – Solaris Nanosciences, a subsidiary of Spectra Systems Corporation, a private company spun out of Brown University in 1996, is seeking venture investment from the Slater Center to develop a nanotechnology which can improve the efficiencies of dye sensitized solar cells, which are cheaper to manufacture than crystalline silicon cells, which comprise 90 % of the PV market. Ron Unterman and Solaris management will make a presentation to the Fund in January 2005, which will include a request for co-investment (through the Slater Center) in the Solaris. See attached information.

#### Hydro

- 9) Royal Mills Hydro Feasibility – No Update.
- 10) Rentricity – Rentricity will make a presentation at the January 11, 2005, Advisory Board meeting which will highlight the results of the statewide survey for applicable sites for its technology to generate electricity from energy recovered from pressurized water utility mains. Rentricity's request for a follow-on, repayable grant of \$150,000 to be used for the engineering and design of 4 projects, which would generate a total of 500 to 800 kilowatts, is detailed in the attached study.

#### **Customer Demand Programs**

- 11) Renewable Energy Customer Aggregation (RECA) RFP and Proposal to Large Customer Program: The Fund's counterproposal, approved by the Board during the December, 2004 meeting, has been presented to the RECA members. RECA is currently awaiting an updated offer from the vendor, expected this month.
- 12) State House Green Power Purchase – Final preparations are being made with the State Purchasing Office to post the RFP.
- 13) GreenUp – As of December 31, 2004 – there have been a total of 1518 GreenUp signups. The marketers are requesting that the Fund pay for an additional ballot in 2005 (see attached request.)

#### **Outreach Programs**

- 14) Smartpower – Smartpower has revised its plan for outreach and public education in support of GreenUp and other Fund efforts which will be discussed at the January 11, 2005 Board meeting. The plan will be circulated on January 10.